

Wardlaw-Smith House
103 North Washington Street
Madison
Madison County
Florida

HABS No. FLA-163

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. FLA-163

WARDLAW-SMITH HOUSE

Location: 103 North Washington Street (lots 315-316) Madison,
Madison County, Florida.

Present Owner: Alex H. Smith and James H. Smith

Present Use: Multi-family residence

Statement of
Significance: This structure was built during the 1850's by William
A. Hammerly, architect from Virginia. It is a two-
story wood structure of Greek Revival style with
pillared porches on four sides.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Built for Colonel Benjamin Franklin Wardlaw, purchased before its completion by Chandler Holmes Smith, land owner and merchant. It remains in possession of the Smith Family.
2. Date of erection: About 1855.
3. Architect and builder: William A. Hammerly, who also designed and built Cheuolota, the plantation home of Judge John Charles McGehee, who presides over the Secession Convention in Tallahassee.
4. Notes on alterations and additions: House originally had porches at both first and second floors supported by square wood columns; second floor porch removed and square columns replaced with fluted modified Doric column c. 1900. Original kitchen, formerly separated from house, attached to porch and converted to apartment. Portion of porch enclosed as bath c. 1910. Kitchen and additional bath added 1930.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: During the Battle Olustee on February 20, 1864, wounded Confederate soldiers were brought to Madison and the house served as a hospital. Family tradition holds that Jefferson Davis' son hid in this house to avoid capture by Federal Troops.

C. Sources of information: Alex H. Smith, present owner and occupant.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: A two-story, frame structure of Greek Revival style, two-story porch on four sides, elaborate detail on cornice of porch, notable front door frontispieces and window trim, east elevation.

2. Condition of Fabric: Good, although modified from original

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Approximately 74' x 74', not including the kitchen appendage, faces east.
2. Foundations: Brick piers under porches and house, with four-inch brick screens (modern) between; some rubble stone piers under house.
3. Wall construction: Exterior wall construction, wood frame with flush, horizontal wood siding. Wood pilasters at each corner. Exterior wall surfaces painted white.
4. Porches, stoops, balconies: Two-story, wooden porch on all four sides: twenty, wood, fluted modified Doric columns with square wood bases (some bases replaced with concrete similar to original). Brick piers supporting porch columns project through porch (wood strip) floor. Concrete steps to porch from grade. Second floor balconies: wood floors, iron railings and bracket supports.
5. Chimneys: Four brick chimneys with two flues each.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Entrance doorway (front), east elevation, has double wood doors of five panels each. Transom of six lights, side lights of three lights each, etched and cut glass throughout, with panels below side lights. Deep wood cornice. Similar doorways appear at each elevation, first and second floors.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double hung wood sash, nine over nine light. Some windows east elevation have side lights of patterned glass, six lights each side, heavy wood cornices and fluted pilasters. Window sash characterized by slim rails, stiles, and muntins. Shutters appear to be original, louvered, wood, painted green.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Flat hip roof, standing seam sheet metal roof.

- b. Cornice, eaves: Elaborate wood entablature: elliptical patterns on frieze, soffit paneled, ovolo molding in cornice. Boxed beams span distance between house and entablature.

C. Technical Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. First floor: Interior divided into four spaces by intersecting halls. North to south hall has stairway to second floor, north end. West end of east-west hall closed by modern kitchen. Each room opens into bath halls.
- b. Second floor: North-south stair hall divides interior into two major spaces. Inaccessible at time of survey.

2. Stairways: Stairway to second floor is U-shaped stair with winders, 4'0" wide, 7" risers, 12" treads, fluted wood balusters, turned newel, wired for lamp, string board decorated.

3. Flooring: Pineboards, 5" wide, edge grain, painted and varnished, some modern plastic coverings.

4. Wall and ceiling finishes: Plaster on wood lath. Wood strip ceilings in two rooms.

5. Doorways and doors: Wood doors: seven panels, 2" thick, mortised and tenoned joints. Simple wood cornice and jamb.

6. Trim: Wood, unimportant. One fireplace is cast iron, resembling contemporary marble forms (1850).

7. Hardware: Interior door and exterior shutter hardware appear to be original.

8. Lighting: None of interest.

9. Heating: Originally heated by a fireplace in each room. Now modern space heaters.

- D. Site: The structure faces east, croded by modern service station and surrounded by several large trees. No walks, drives, or enclosures. No outbuildings of consequence.

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